



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Washington State Trust Lands Forest Improvement Timber Sales

Forest lands throughout the western United States are facing an unprecedented risk of catastrophic fire and epidemic disease or insect outbreaks. This situation has gained extensive media attention over the last several years, particularly in those years when wildfire activity has been extreme. The state of Washington recognized that there are thousands of acres of timber land at risk to wildfire and pathogens throughout Eastern Washington. However, much of the acreage in this condition on state trust lands cannot be treated under the existing timber sales program since the minimum stumpage value for a viable timber sale cannot be achieved. This is due in large part to the fact that the majority of the volume to be removed in these stands is smaller diameter, low value material. To this end, the state legislature approved the Forest Health Bill (SB 144) on March 29, 2004, as an effort to treat these stands using sound silvicultural techniques.

The Forest Health Bill authorized funding through December 31, 2007—unless an extension is granted by the legislature. The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) created two new staffing positions (forest health foresters) in the agency's Northeast and Southeast Regions to implement the program. The forest health forester for Northeast Region is Phil Anderson, and for Southeast Region, Rod Pfeifle. They will coordinate contract bid proposals and serve as project leaders for proposed timber sales created under the Forest Health Bill.

Personal Service Contracts will be awarded to do timber sale layout under this program. A Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) will be advertised and sent to consultants who are interested in doing this work. All aspects of the layout work may be part of the contract including locating unit boundaries, timber marking, locating streamside or wetland buffer zones, road layout, GPS mapping and timber cruising. Proposals will be scored by the RFQQ evaluation team using a combination of experience and bid price to determine the potential contractor's score.

Timber removed from forest health timber sales will be done on a contract harvest basis. Logging contractors interested in contracting with the state for logging services would be required to complete a Request for Submission of Qualifications (RFSOQ). The requests will be scored by the RFSOQ evaluation team to determine if the contractor fulfills the experience requirements. If the contractor does fulfill these requirements, they will be sent a bid form. The resulting bids will be evaluated by the team and a logging contract will be awarded to the lowest bidder.

Log sorts will be sold once the logging contract has been awarded. The sorts will be advertised in the timber sale auction book published monthly by the DNR. Bids will be accepted for delivered logs at the date of auction on a per unit basis. In most cases, there would only be 3 sorts sold under the forest health program. These sorts would include sawlogs (delivered price/MBF), small saw (delivered price/ton) and pulp wood (delivered price/ton). Information on personal service contracts, logging contracts, and log sort auctions under the forest health program will be posted on this website. Interested parties can get information on the projects that they would like to submit bids for—DNR's website www.dnr.wa.gov.

More information on the program is available from our forest health lead foresters:
Phil Anderson in Colville (509) 684-7474
Rod Pfeifle in Ellensburg (509) 925-8510